

In re Appln. of John Andrew Larson
Application No. 10/757,659
Response to Final Office Action of February 9, 2006

Remarks

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-31 were pending. Claims 1 and 4-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,733,936 to Flynn. Claims 20-31 are indicated as being allowed.

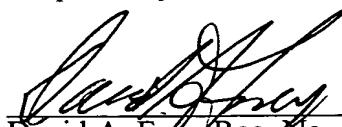
By way of this amendment, claims 1 and 4-19 are canceled. Claims 1 and 4-19 are canceled without prejudice merely to place the application in form for allowance.

Cancellation of the claims is not to be construed as a concession of unpatentability, and the Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims or claims having a similar spirit or scope in a continuing application.

The Applicant generally agrees with the Examiner's determination that the prior art does not teach the ratchet mechanism of the present application. However, the Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the prior art or the Examiner's interpretation of the claims of the application. The specification and the prosecution history in their entirety provide the basis for allowability of the claims.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Frey Reg. No. 43,618
GARDNER CARTON & DOUGLAS LLP
191 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 3700
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1698
(312) 569-1000 (telephone)
(312) 569-3000 (facsimile)
Customer No.: 08968

Date: July 25, 2006

In re Appln. of John Andrew Larson
Application No. 10/757,659
Response to Final Office Action of February 9, 2006

Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

EV265820725US

July 25, 2006

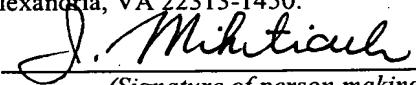
Express Mail mailing number

Date of Deposit

I hereby certify this RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 9, 2006, including any documents or materials referred to thereon as enclosures or attachments, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Irina L. Mikitiouk

(Typed or printed name or person making deposit)



(Signature of person making deposit)

CH01/12481426.1